

## Message Text

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43/53

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0467

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 12823 VICE 2823)

NAIROBI FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IV, UR, XA, AO, XJ

SUBJECT:HOUPHOUET-BOGNY'S THEMES IN FRANCE

REF: PARIS 12205 (NOTAL)

1. HOUPHOUET'S VISIT TO FRANCE, OFFICIALLY BEGUN MAY  
3, DIFFERS FROM THOSE OF MOST FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN  
CHIEFS OF STATE. INSTEAD OF CENTERING HIS EFFORTS ON  
BILATERAL QUESTIONS, INCLUDING SECURING INCREASED FRENCH  
AID, THE IVORIAN PRESIDENT IS CONCENTRATING ON DELIVER-  
ING A GLOBAL MESSAGE, AND A WARNING, TO FRANCE, EUROPE  
AND, INDEED, THE WESTERN WORLD. THE MESSAGE IS THAT  
THE WEST HAS ERRED GRAVELY IN ITS AFRICAN POLICY BY  
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NOT GIVING TIMELY BACKING TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION

MOVEMENTS, THUS OFFERING THE EVER-ADVENTUROUS SOVIETS THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR TO BE ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS, AS WITNESS ANGOLA. THE WARNING IS THAT IF THE WEST DOES NOT SHAKE OFF ITS FACINATION WITH "DETENTE" AND ITS PARALYSIS VIS A VIS THE SOVIETS, BOTH ESSENTIAL RAW MATERIALS AND AFRICAN GOOD WILL WILL BE IRRETRIEVABLY LOST. PART OF HOUPHOUET'S PRESCRIPTION IS FOR THE WEST TO BEGIN TO "APPROPRIATE" PRICES FOR COMMODITIES. THE MEDIA HAVE GIVEN BROAD PLAY TO THESE THEMES.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. REFTEL CONTAINS MAJOR ELEMENTS OF HOUPHOUET'S ARGUMENTS. IN INTERVIEW WITH PHILIPPE DECRAENE IN LE MONDE OF APRIL 30, HOUPHOUET HAD FOLLOWING TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT:

"...(THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR) WAS A BASIC TEST. THE WEST CARRIES A TRAGIC RESPONSIBILITY BECAUSE IT DID NOT SEE FIT TO COUNCIL THE PORTUGUESE IN TIME TO DECOLONIZE HARMONIOUSLY, AS HAD THE FRENCH AND BRITISH, AND BECAUSE IT DID NOT AGREE SOON ENOUGH TO AID THE ANGOLAN NATIONALISTS, WHICH INCITED THE SOVIETS TO DO IT IN THEIR PLACE. TODAY, THOSE WHO WOULD DOUBTLESSLY COLLABORATE WILLINGLY WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO DO SO BECAUSE THEY ARE UNABLE NOT TO SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE TOWARDS THE SOVIET UNION. BUT TO EXPLOIT THEIR VAST POTENTIAL RESOURCES, THE ANGOLANS PROBABLY WILL TURN ONE DAY TOWARDS THE WEST. MAY THEY NOT BE DISAPPOINTED A SECOND TIME".

3. REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON SOUTH AFRICA, HOUPHOUET SAID HE DID NOT THINK VORSTER WAS SIMPLY TRYING TO BUY TIME BY HIS RECENT REFERENCES TO "DIALOGUE". HE THOUGHT SOMETHING HAD BUDGED IN PRETORIA SINCE DIALOGUE BEGAN, SOMETHING TIMID AND INADEQUATE, "BUT CONTRARY TO WHAT HAD EVER HAPPENED BEFORE, THE APARTHEID SYSTEM HAS BEEN SHAKEN". IN RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, THERE ARE ONLY TWO ATTITUDES, HE SAID, NEGOTIATION OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAR. "WHAT AFRICAN STATE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERS GOING TO WAR WITH SOUTH AFRICA."

4. AS FOR TRANSKEI, HOUPHOUET SAID MATANZIMA WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE PROOF THAT HIS COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE EFFECTIVELY GUARANTEED AND THAT IT WAS NOT SIMPLY THE RESULT OF THE WHIMS OF WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS. ON NAMIBIA, HOUPHOUET SAID: "MR. VORESTER APPEARS

DECIDED TO MAKE THE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE TERRITORY  
EVOLVE, BUT IT REMAINS FOR HIM TO PROVE IT. ABOVE  
ALL, AND CONTRARY TO THE ATTITUDE SHOWN BY THE BRITISH  
IN RHODESIA, THE SOUTH AFRICANS MUST NOT LOSE INTEREST  
IN THE FUTURE TURN OF EVENTS IN WINDHOEK, BY ALSO  
ABANDONING, FOR EXAMPLE, THE BLACKS TO THE WHIMS OF  
THE WHITES".RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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